This course examines the major themes of American history since 1890, including:

- Strivings to fulfill the historical promise of equality and democracy, as exemplified by the civil rights, women’s, and other movements.
- Significant periods of political and social change such as the Progressive Era, New Deal, 1960s and 1970s, and the rise of the New Right.
- U.S. involvement in foreign affairs from the War of 1898 through the world wars, Cold War, and post-9/11 conflicts.

History 2112 is part of KSU’s general education program, which has five overall goals:

- Develop productive habits of mind
- Develop effective communication skills
- Expand knowledge and understanding…
- Expand creative capabilities
- Exhibit understanding of the impact of ethical and aesthetic values

Required book available for purchase at KSU Bookstore:

1. James West Davidson, et. al., *US: A Narrative History, Vol. 2 Since 1865*

Other readings posted on Georgia View Vista.

Requirements and grading proportions:

1. Midterm Exam, Friday May 18………………………………………………………….40%
2. Final Exam, Friday May 25……………………………………………………………….50%
3. Attendance/participation………………………………………………………………..10%

**Exams:** You are responsible for ALL COURSE MATERIAL. Although exams will emphasize topics covered in class lectures, exams will cover all course materials including course readings, lectures, slides, and films. DIGEST THE READING, COME TO CLASS, TAKE NOTES ON LECTURES AND FILMS, AND YOU WILL SUCCEED IN THIS CLASS.
Attendance: Attendance is mandatory. You are "allowed" one absence. A second absence will lower your participation grade by 20%. If you have three or more absences, your participation grade will be 0.

Participation: I expect you to participate and be an active, not passive, learner. We will devote a portion of each meeting to discussion. You should be prepared for me to call on you to ask questions about the reading, current events, or anything else that might be related to American history since 1890. A good way to participate is to come prepared to make a particular comment or ask a specific question.

Tardiness and early departures: Please be considerate of the instructor and other students by arriving to class on time and waiting until class is over before gathering up books and materials to leave. If you know you will be late or will have to leave early, you must notify the instructor in advance. Any time you are not in class the entire time will be considered an absence.

Schedule:

Monday, May 14
The United States in the 1890s

Focus topics:
• Populism and the 1896 election
• Imperialism and war in Cuba and the Philippines

Reading to be completed for today:
• Davidson, chapter 21, all

Tuesday May 15
1900-1920: The Progressive Era; The United States and the Great War

Focus topics:
• Muckraking journalism
• Women’s voting rights
• Government regulation
• The debate over and causes of participation in World War I
• The first Red Scare and limitations on civil liberties

Reading to be completed for today:
• Davidson, chapter 22, all, except for sections 3 and 6
• Paula A. Trecker, “Lady Muckraker”
• President Wilson’s War Message and Sen. Robert LaFollette’s anti-war speech.

Wednesday, May 16
1930s: The Great Depression and the New Deal
Focus topics:
• Causes of the Depression
• The first and second New Deals
• The New Deal and labor
• Does the U.S. need a new New Deal today?

Reading to be completed for today:
• Davidson, chapter 24, The Roaring Economy and The Great Bull Market sections only.
• Davidson, chapter 25, all
• “Genora Dollinger Remembers the 1936-37 General Motors Sit-Down Strike”

Thursday, May 17
The U.S. and World War II, 1939-1945

Focus topics:
• From isolationism to Pearl Harbor
• War production and work
• Japanese-American incarceration
• The atomic bombs

Reading to be completed for today:
• Davidson, chapter 26, all
• Supreme Court opinions in Korematsu v. United States
• The Franck Report

Friday, May 18
First 75 minutes: Midterm exam
Then: The Cold War and the Nuclear Age, 1945-1954

Focus topics:
• The Truman Doctrine and containment
• The Red Scare at home
• The Korean War

Reading to be completed for today:
• Davidson, chapter 27, all except section 2 (Postwar Prosperity)

Monday, May 21
1953-1965: Cold War Interventions; The Civil Rights Movement

Focus topics:
• CIA coups in Iran and Guatemala
• JFK and Cuba
• The African-American Civil Rights Movement, 1954-1965
• Martin Luther King and nonviolent resistance

Reading to be completed for today:
• Davidson, chapter 28, last two sections only
• Davidson, chapter 29, first two sections only
• Stephen Kinzer, “Despotism and Godless Terrorism”
• Martin Luther King, “Letter From Birmingham Jail”

Tuesday, May 22
Vietnam: The War Abroad and at Home, 1960s and 1970s

Focus topics:
• Roots of the Vietnam War
• Polarization at home
• The My Lai Massacre
• The New Identity Politics: Latinos, Women, and LGBT
• The Watergate Scandal

Reading to be completed for today:
• Davidson, chapter 30, all except section 6 (Value Politics)

Wednesday, May 23

Focus topics:
• Global economic change
• Carter and the Iran hostage crisis
• Pros and cons of Reaganomics
• The Iran Contra Scandal
• Reagan and Gorbachev
• The U.S., Pakistan, and the mujahideen in Afghanistan

Reading to be completed for today:
• Davidson, chapter 31, all except last section
• Stephen Kinzer, “They Will Have Flies Walking Across Their Eyeballs”

Thursday, May 24
The United States, 1988-2006

Focus topics:
• The Persian Gulf War
• The new immigration
• The Clinton presidency
• 9/11
• George W. Bush: Unilateralism and the doctrine of preemption
• Wars in Afghanistan and Iraq

Reading to be completed for today:
• Davidson, chapter 31, last section
• Davidson, chapter 32, sections 1, 2, and 4 only

Friday, May 25
Final Exam (two hours)